

Small Group Discussion Guide

Our Heavenly Father

June 20, 2026

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The way we understand God shapes every area of our faith. Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself in many ways—Creator, Shepherd, Savior, King, and Redeemer. Yet one of the most personal and powerful revelations of God is that He is our Father.

I. God's Relationship to Humanity

Paul writes in **Ephesians 3:14-15** that every family in Heaven and on Earth derives its name from the Father. God chose the role of Father as a primary way to relate to humanity. If our understanding of fatherhood is distorted, it can affect how we view God, ourselves, and others. Jesus came, not only to save us from sin, but also to reveal our Heavenly Father to us.

John 17:6 (NKJV®) "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world."

John 14:6 (NKJV®) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

*Matthew 11:27 (NKJV®) All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.***

- **How has your experience with earthly fathers or father figures influenced the way you view God as Father?**

Many people have positive examples of earthly fathers, while others have experienced disappointment, absence, or hurt. Regardless of our earthly fathers, God is the perfect Father who never abandons His children. Through Christ, we gain access to a loving Heavenly Father who provides, protects, guides, and welcomes us into His family.

- **Read the following passages aloud: Psalm 20:1; Psalm 23:4, Isaiah 43:2-3, Psalm 31:7-8**

- **Which of God's fatherly qualities—provision, leadership, protection, or security—means the most to you right now, and why?**

II. Seek God – Be Different

God desires more than occasional attention; He desires relationship. So, seek God!

- **Read the following passages aloud: 1 Chronicles 28:9-10, Psalm 34:10; Lamentations 3:25; Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:2; Hebrews 11:6.**

Seeking God requires intentionality. We live in a world full of distractions competing for our attention. The battlefield is often in our minds. Selfish ambition, entertainment, hobbies, pornography, gambling, or other pursuits can slowly take God's rightful place in our hearts.

• **What distractions compete for your attention and affection toward God?**

Jesus gave us a clear priority in **Matthew 6:33**: "*Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.*" Practical ways we can seek and please God include:

- reading Scripture consistently;
- being active in a community of faith;
- integrating faith into everyday life; and
- developing a lifestyle of prayer.

• **Which spiritual practice do you need to strengthen most right now? What steps can you take to do so?**

III. Honor Your Father and Mother

Ephesians 6:2-4 (NIV®) "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Honoring parents does not necessarily mean approving of everything they have done. Some people received tremendous blessings from their parents, while others experienced deep wounds. Yet Scripture still calls us to honor them.

• **What is the difference between honoring a parent and approving of everything they have done?**

For many believers, forgiveness becomes an important step in this process. Some need to forgive fathers who failed them. Others need God's grace as fathers themselves, recognizing their own shortcomings and seeking wisdom to lead their families well.

The good news is that our Heavenly Father offers healing, freedom, forgiveness, and strength. He is able to restore what has been broken and help us walk in obedience.

• **Where is God inviting you to extend forgiveness—to your father, your mother, or even to yourself as a parent?**

Pray the Lord's Prayer Together:

"Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the glory forever and ever amen."